

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 35 – SB 455

March 6, 2015

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes local education agencies (LEAs) to enroll any at-risk child within an LEA's geographic area and who is eligible to enter kindergarten in the academic year immediately after the pre-kindergarten program. Authorizes LEAs to offer a pre-kindergarten (pre-K) program during an academic year, or in lieu of an academic year, during the summer. Requires LEAs that elect to offer a summer pre-K program to provide at least six weeks of instruction and a maximum of eight weeks of instruction.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact - To the extent LEAs elect to offer pre-K programs in the summer, state and local expenditures for funding pre-kindergarten classrooms will decrease. The extent of any such reduction in funding cannot be reasonably determined and is dependent upon multiple unknown factors.

Assumptions:

- Each voluntary pre-K program is funded based on the local education agency's (LEA) Basic Education Program (BEP) funding ratio as determined by the BEP funding formula.
- The average cost of one pre-kindergarten classroom in FY14-15 is \$117,300 with an average state expenditure of 91,800 and a local match of \$25,500.
- Voluntary pre-K programs are currently required to offer 180 days of instruction.
- Each LEA that elects to offer a summer pre-K program, in lieu of a program occurring during an academic year, will have a decrease in the number of required instructional days. Each summer pre-K program will offer a minimum of 30 instructional days (6 weeks) and a maximum of 40 instructional days (8 weeks).
- If LEAs switch from a pre-K program that mirrors the regular K-12 academic calendar to a summer pre-K program, state and local expenditures for pre-K will decrease. The extent of any such decrease to state and local expenditures is dependent upon multiple unknown factors, including but not limited to, the number of pre-K classrooms within an LEA; how many LEAs will switch to a summer pre-K schedule; how many weeks each summer pre-K program will elect to operate; the funding ratio for pre-K classrooms within each LEA that decides to switch to a summer pre-K program; and the amount of each local government's in-kind contribution to its voluntary pre-K program.
- No change in the number of voluntary pre-K classrooms.
- LEAs will not switch to a summer pre-K program if such a switch will place federal grant funding in jeopardy.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey L. Spalding". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" and last name "Spalding" clearly distinguishable.

Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

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